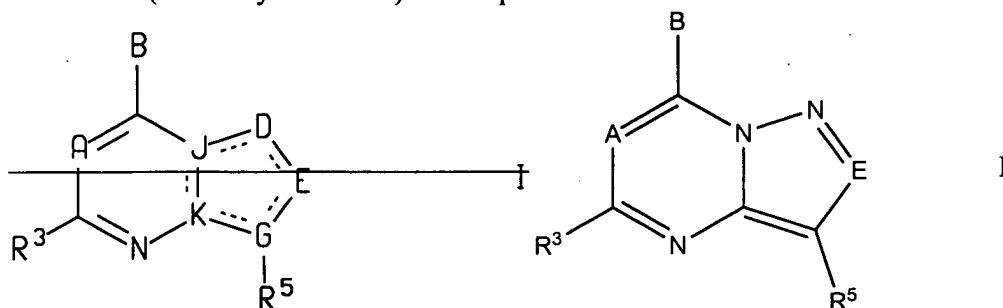


IN THE CLAIMS

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

the dashed lines represent optional double bonds;

A is nitrogen or CH, or CCH₃

B is ~~[[NR^1R^2]]~~ $\text{CR}^1\text{R}^2\text{R}^{10}$ $\text{C}(=\text{CR}^2\text{R}^{11})\text{R}^1$, $\text{NHCR}^1\text{R}^2\text{R}^{10}$, $\text{OCR}^1\text{R}^2\text{R}^{10}$, $\text{SCR}^1\text{R}^2\text{R}^{10}$, $\text{CR}^2\text{R}^{10}\text{NHR}^1$, $\text{CR}^2\text{R}^{10}\text{OR}^1$, $\text{CR}^2\text{R}^{10}\text{SR}^1$ or COR^2 ;

~~J and K are each independently is nitrogen; or carbon and both J and K are not nitrogens;~~

~~D and E are each selected, independently, from nitrogen; CR^4 , C=O, C=S, sulfur, oxygen, CR^4R^6 and NR^8 ;~~

E is selected from CR^4 , C=O, C=S, sulfur, oxygen, CR^4R^6 and NR^8 ;

G is ~~[[nitrogen or]]~~ carbon;

~~the ring containing D, E, G, K, and J in formula I may be a saturated or unsaturated 5-membered ring and may optionally contain one or two double bonds and may optionally contain from one to three heteroatoms in the ring and may optionally have one or two C=O or C=S groups;~~

R¹ is C₁-C₆ alkyl optionally substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, -O-(C₁-C₄ alkyl), CF₃, -C(=O)O-(C₁-C₄alkyl), -OC(=O)(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -OC(=O)N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)(C₁-C₂ alkyl), -NHCO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -COOH, -COO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -CONH(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -CON(C₁-C₄ alkyl)(C₁-C₂ alkyl), -S(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -CN, -NO₂, -SO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -SO₂(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -SO₂NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl) and -SO₂N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)(C₁-C₂ alkyl), wherein each of the C₁-C₄ alkyl groups in the foregoing R¹ groups may optionally contain one or two double or triple bonds;

R^2 is C_1 - C_{12} alkyl which may optionally contain from one to three double or triple bonds, aryl or (C_1 - C_4 alkylene)aryl, wherein said aryl and the aryl moiety of said (C_1 - C_4 alkylene)aryl is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl, quinolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, imidazolyl, furanyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrrolopyridyl, oxazolyl and benzoxazolyl; C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl or (C_1 - C_6 alkylene)(C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl), wherein one or two of the carbon atoms of said cycloalkyl and the 5 to 8 membered cycloalkyl moieties of said (C_1 - C_6 alkylene)(C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl) may optionally and independently be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom or by NZ^2 wherein Z^2 is selected from hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, benzyl and C_1 - C_4 alkanoyl, and wherein each of the foregoing R^2 groups may optionally be substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, fluoro, hydroxy and C_1 - C_4 alkyl, or with one substituent selected from bromo, iodo, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, $-OC(=O)(C_1$ - C_6 alkyl), $-OC(=O)N(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl)(C_1 - C_2 alkyl), $-S(C_1$ - C_6 alkyl), amino, $-NH(C_1$ - C_2 alkyl), $-N(C_1$ - C_2 alkyl)(C_1 - C_4 alkyl), $-N(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl)- CO -(C_1 - C_4 alkyl), $-NHCO(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl), $-COOH$, $-COO(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl), $-CONH(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl), $-CON(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl)(C_1 - C_2 alkyl), $-SH$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-SO(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl), $-SO_2(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl), $-SO_2NH(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl) and $-SO_2N(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl)(C_1 - C_2 alkyl);

$-NR^1R^2$ or $CR^1R^2R^{10}$ may form a saturated 3 to 8 membered carbocyclic ring which may optionally contain from one to three double bonds and wherein one or two of the ring carbon atoms of such 5 to 8 membered rings may optionally and independently be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom or by NZ^3 wherein Z^3 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, benzyl or C_1 - C_4 alkanoyl;

R^3 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, $-O(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl), chloro, fluoro, bromo, iodo, (C_1 - C_2 alkylene)- O -(C_1 - C_2 alkyl), (C_1 - C_2 alkylene)- OH , or $-S(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl);

each R^4 is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1 - C_6 alkyl), fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, hydroxy, cyano, amino, (C_1 - C_2 alkylene)- OH , CF_3 , CH_2SCH_3 , nitro, $-O(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl), $-N(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl)(C_1 - C_2 alkyl), $-S(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl), $-CO(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl), $-C(=O)H$ or $-C(=O)O(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl);

R^6 is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl;

R^8 is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 alkyl;

R^5 is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidyl, pyridazinyl and wherein each of the foregoing R^5 groups is substituted with from one to four substituents R^{13} wherein one to three of said substituents may be selected, independently, from fluoro, chloro, C_1 - C_6 alkyl

and -O(C₁-C₆ alkyl) and one of said substituents may be selected from bromo, iodo, formyl, OH, (C₁-C₄ alkylene)-OH, (C₁-C₄alkylene)-O-(C₁-C₂ alkyl), -CN, -CF₃, -NO₂, -NH₂, -NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -N(C₁-C₂ alkyl)(C₁-C₆ alkyl), -OCO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), (C₁-C₄ alkylene)-O-(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -S(C₁-C₆ alkyl), (C₁-C₄ alkylene)-S-(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -C(=O)O(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -C(=O)(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -COOH, -SO₂NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -SO₂N(C₁-C₂ alkyl)(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -SO₂NH₂, -NHSO₂(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -S(C₁-C₆ alkyl) and -SO₂(C₁-C₆ alkyl), and wherein each of the C₁-C₄ alkyl and C₁-C₆ alkyl moieties in the foregoing R⁵ groups may optionally have one or two double bonds;

R⁷ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, ~~[[halo (e.g.,]]~~ chloro, fluoro, iodo, ~~[[or]]~~ bromo ~~[[,]]~~, hydroxy, -O(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -C(=O)(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -C(=O)O(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -OCF₃, -CF₃, -CH₂OH or -CH₂O(C₁-C₂ alkyl);

R¹⁰ is ~~[[hydrogen]]~~, hydroxy, methoxy or fluoro;

R¹¹ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl. ~~[[, and]]~~

~~with the proviso that: (a) when both J and K are carbons and D is CR⁴ and E is nitrogen, then G can not be nitrogen; (b) when both J and K are carbons and D and G are nitrogens, then E can not be CR⁴ or C=O or C=S; (c) when both J and K are carbons and D and E are carbons, then G can not be nitrogen; (d) when G is carbon, it must be double banded to E; and (e) in the ring containing J, K, D, E and G, there can not be two double bonds adjacent to each other;~~

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of such compounds.

10. (Withdrawn) Compounds according to claim 9 wherein A is CH, J and K are carbon and D, E, and G are nitrogen.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~[[Compounds]]~~ A compound according to claim 9 wherein ~~J and D are nitrogen, and K and G are carbon, and E is CH, CCH₃ or CC₂H₅.~~

12-17. (Cancelled)

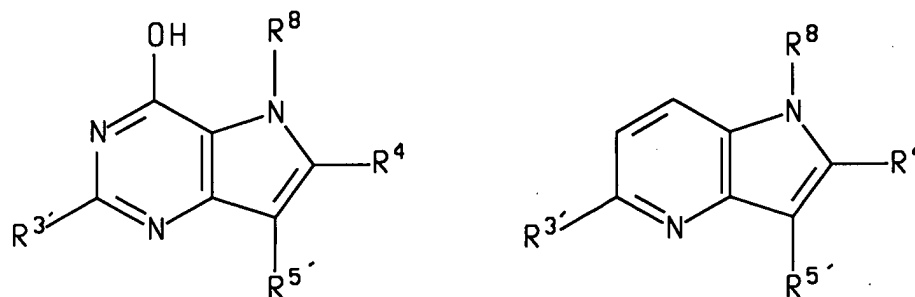
18. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a disorder or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by inhibiting CRH binding protein in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal a CRH binding protein inhibiting amount of a compound according to claim 9.

19. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing a disorder or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by inhibiting CRH binding protein in a mammal, comprising a CRH binding

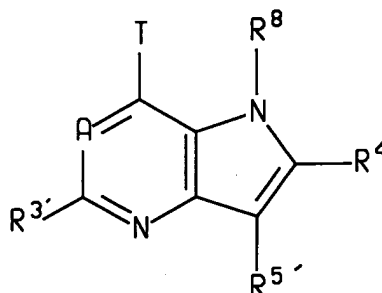
protein inhibiting amount of a compound according to claim [[1]] 9 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula



or



wherein R^3N is C_1 - C_4 alkyl, R^7N is hydrogen, methyl, chloro, bromo, $-COOH$ or $-COO(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$, T is chloro, bromo, iodo or triflate, R^8 is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 alkyl and R^4 is hydrogen, $(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})$, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, hydroxy, cyano, amino, $(C_1-C_2 \text{ alkylene})-OH$, CF_3 , CH_2SCH_3 , nitro, $-O(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$, $-N(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})(C_1-C_2 \text{ alkyl})$, $-S(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$, $-CO(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$, $-C(=O)H$ or $-C(=O)O(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$;

23. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim [[1]] 9 wherein said compound is:

~~7-(1-ethyl-propoxy)-5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine;~~

~~[2,5-Dimethyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-(1-ethyl-propyl)-amine;~~

~~— (1-Ethyl-propyl)-[5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-amine;~~

~~— 7-(1-Ethyl-propoxy)-2,5-dimethyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine;~~

~~— [2,5-Dimethyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-ethyl-propyl-amine;~~

[6-Bromo-5-bromomethyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridin-7-yl]-(1-ethyl-propyl)-amine;

(1-Ethyl-propyl)-[5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridin-7-yl]-amine;

[6-Bromo-5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridin-7-yl]-(1-ethyl-propyl)-methyl-amine;

7-(1-Ethyl-propoxy)-5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridine;

4-(1-Ethyl-propoxy)-2,5-dimethyl-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine;

(+)-2,5-Dimethyl-4-(tetrahydro-furan-3-yloxy)-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo-[3,2-d]pyrimidine;

2,5-Dimethyl-4-(S)-(tetrahydro-furan-3-yloxy)-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo-[3,2-d]pyrimidine;

2,5-Dimethyl-4-(1-propyl-butoxy)-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine; or

4-sec-Butylsulfanyl-2,5-dimethyl-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of such compound.